Figure 1: Length of Stay Served by Status and Fiscal Year (in months)
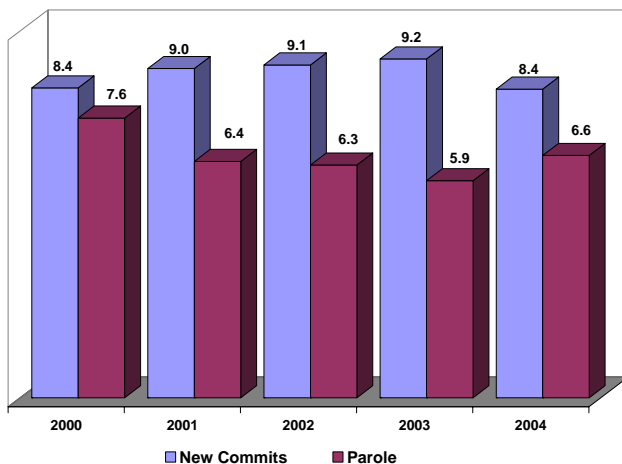
CURRENT ADJC RESEARCH

Gopal Chengalath and John Vivian, July 2005, ADJC Recidivism.

R&D annually recalculates ADJC recidivism rates. The most recent cohort tracked by R&D included juveniles released from ADJC Safe Schools in 2003. This report presented three findings related to ADJC recidivism. First, the 40.5%, 36 month ADJC recidivism rate for the juveniles released in 2001 was the lowest 36 month ADJC recidivism rate ever recorded. Second, there were small increases in the 12 and 24 month ADJC recidivism rates. The increases can be attributed to the termination of the Parole Reinforcement program. Third, ADJC recidivism rates compare favorably to those states that compute recidivism in a similar way. Only four other states were found to measure recidivism comparable to ADJC. The comparison of juvenile recidivism rates must be treated with great caution.

Stella Vasquez, Gopal Chengalath and John Vivian, Employment and Recidivism, July 2005.

Juveniles released from ADJC who are gainfully employed are less likely to recidivate. Our study tracked 709 juveniles released from ADJC secure care in 2002. We used the Parole Monthly report to determine their employment history. We found that 167 juveniles were employed and 542 were not. We also found that150 juveniles recidivated and 559 did not. While there are many limitations to our findings, they support the contention that gainfully employed juveniles are less likely to get in trouble with the law and return to custody.

Gopal Chengalath, Turnover and Vacancy Rates for Selected ADJC Positions, July 2005.

Psychology Associates and Teachers had higher turnover rates during Fiscal Year 2005 than Youth Correctional Officers or Nurses (see Table 1).

Table 1:

Turnover Rates for Selected ADJC Positions			
Psychology Associates	Teachers	Youth Correct. Officers	Nurses
43%	40%	37%	26%

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

How many juveniles are currently incarcerated at an Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) prison?

JUVENILE JUSTICE LITERATURE REVIEW

Gary McClelland, Linda Teplin and Karen Abram, Detection and Prevalence of Substance Use Among Juvenile Detainees, Juvenile Justice Bulletin, June 2004.

McClelland, Teplin and Abram conclude that there is no single, reliable method for detecting substance use and abuse among juvenile detainees. "No gold standard exists for assessment of substance use. Each method has its strengths and weaknesses." Their findings were based on a study of 1,829 juveniles held at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center between 1995 and 1998. The authors believe that identifying juveniles with a substance abuse problem is important because it will help identify those who are at the greatest risk for future criminal problems. Cannabis use can be reliably detected via either self-report or urinalysis, however, detecting the use of other substances is far more problematic. "Most detained youth who test positive by urinalysis for substances other than cannabis do not reply honestly to questions about their drug use. Furthermore, use of these substances is likely to go undetected in urinalysis..."

Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Outcome Evaluation of Washington State's Research-Based Programs for Juvenile Offenders, January 2004.

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) conducted a cost-benefit analysis of four programs implemented in their state: Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Coordination of Services (COS) and Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST). WSIPP researchers found that the quality of program delivery affected outcomes. "Without quality assurance efforts, the program may not only fail to reduce recidivism, it may actually increase recidivism." When FFT was delivered competently, they found that it reduced recidivism by 38% and also generated $2.77 in cost avoidance for every taxpayer dollar spent on it. When ART was delivered competently, it reduced recidivism by 24% and had a cost/benefit ratio of $11.66 for every taxpayer dollar spent on it. The COS program was found to yield a reduction in recidivism and a cost benefit ratio of $7.89. The WSIPP researchers concluded that adaptation of research-based programs to reduce juvenile recidivism is a good first step, however, without effective quality assurance methods, these programs may produce actual increases in recidivism.

Ashley Nellis, Seven Steps to Develop and Evaluate Strategies to Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center, January 2005.

Five explanations have been offered for DMC: 1) differential offending, 2) differential opportunities for prevention and treatment, 3) differential handling of minority youths, 4) indirect effects and 5) legislation, policies and procedures. Nellis recommends that agencies concerned about DMC target specific decision points where DMC problems exist. Several strategies to address DMC are presented and they include: 1) prevention and early intervention, 2) alternatives to secure detention, 3) administrative rule modification, 4) cultural competency training and 5) development of objective decision making tools. The report provides examples of specific programs within each strategy and Nellis recommends that a *Logic* model be used to design any agency program designed to reduce DMC.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER
As of June 30, 2005 a total of 78 juveniles (77 males and 1 female) were incarcerated at ADC. This represents a 33% reduction from the June 30, 2003 population of 117.

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